

## **Devotions: July 5 to July 11**

*For daily devotions I am going to start using Grace For The Moment by Max Lucado.*

### **Monday:** He Still Moves Stones

*Matthew 6:14 - If you forgive others for their sins, Your Father in heaven will also forgive you for your sins.*

Bitterness is its own prison....The dungeon, deep and dark, is beckoning you to enter...You can choose, like many, to chain yourself to your hurt...Or you can choose, like some, to put away your hurts before they become hates....How does God deal with your better heart? He reminds you that what you have is more important than what you do not have. You still have your relationship with God. No one can take that.

Take care and God Bless! Pastor Mary Lou

### **Tuesday:** When Christ Comes

*2 Thessalonians 1:10 - On the day when the Lord Jesus comes,...all the people who have believed will be amazed at Jesus.*

When we see Christ...we will see the perfect priest....A priest presents people to God and god to people. You have known other priest...whether clergy or not, who sought to bring you to God. But they, too, need a priest...They like you, were sinful. Not so with Jesus. "Jesus is the kind of high priest we need. He is holy, sinless, pure, not influenced by sinners, and he is raised above the heavens" (Hebrew 7:26). Jesus is the perfect priest.

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### **Wednesday:** In The Eye Of The Storm

*Matthew 14:27 NKJV – Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid.”*

When the disciples saw Jesus in the middle of their stormy night, they called him a ghost....To them, the glow was anything but God....We often have the same

reaction. We dismiss occasional kindness as apparitions, accidents, or anomalies. Anything but God....And because we look for the bonfire, we miss the candle. Because we listen for the shout, we miss the whisper. But it is in burnished candles that God comes, and through whispered promises he speaks.

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**Thursday:** When God Whispers Your Name

*1 Timothy 1:19 - Continue to have faith and do what you know is right. Some people have rejected this, and their faith has been shipwrecked.*

I sit a few feet from a man on death row....I am curious about what bolsters this man as he nears his execution. So I ask some questions. Do you have a family, Paul? I have none. What about your health? My body is beaten and tired....Then what do you have, Paul?...What do you have that matters? I have my faith. It is all I have. But it is all I need.

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**Friday:** A Gentle Thunder

*2 Peter 3:9 - God is being patient with you....He wants all people to change their hearts and lives.*

[To those who embrace Christ as Savior,] he has promised a new birth.... Does that mean you will instantly be able to resist any temptation? To answer that question, compare your new birth in Christ to a newborn baby. Can a newborn walk?...No, not yet. But someday he will. It takes time to grow. But is the parent in the delivery room ashamed of the baby?...Of course not...they are proud. They know that growth will come with time. So does God.

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**Saturday:** In The Grip Of Grace

*Matthew 22:37 - Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.*

Mine deep enough in every heart and you will find it: a longing for meaning, a quest for purpose...Some search for meaning in a career...They opt to be a human “doing” rather than a human “being”...For others, who they are is what they have. They...are always seeking meaning in something they own... All mirages in the desert of purpose...Should not we face the truth? If we do not acknowledge God, we are flotsam in the universe.

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**Sunday:** Just Like Jesus

*Revelation 4:8 - Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty. He was, he is, and he is coming.*

Exactly what is worship?...Worship is the act of magnifying God. Enlarging our vision of him...Of course, his size does not change, but our perception of him does. As we draw nearer, he seems larger. Isn't that what we need? A big view of God? Don't we have big problems, big worries, big questions? Of course we do. Hence we need a big view of God. Worship offers that. How can we sing, “Holy, Holy, Holy” and not have our vision expanded?

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